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Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 INR-07 LAB-04
NSAE-00 SIL-01 PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06 /039 W
----------141505Z 033706 /50
R 141130Z FEB 77
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9069

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUENOS AIRES 1166

E.O. 1652: GDS
TAGS: ELAB, PINS, AR
SUBJECT: LIGHT AND POWER WORKERS SUSPEND WORK STOPPAGE

REF: (A) BUENOS AIRES 0884, (B) BUENOS AIRES 0952

1. THE LIGHT AND POWER WORKERS HAVE SUSPENDED THEIR SLOWDOWN AND HAVE AGREED TO ADHERE TO THE NEW WORK SCHEDULE, WITH SOME MODIFICATION. ACCORDING TO THE REPORTED AGREEMENT REACHED IN INFORMAL TALKS WITH GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES, FURTHER DISCUSSIONS WILL TAKE PLACE CONCERNING OTHER PORTIONS OF THE NEW WORK RULES RECENTLY IMPOSED BY THE GOVERNMENT, BUT IN THE MEANTIME AND PENDING THE OUTCOME OF THOSE TALKS, THE NEW RULES WILL BE PUT INTO EFFECT AND WILL BE OBEYED BY THE WORKERS. THE ONE MODIFICATION CONCERNING THE WORK SCHEDULE IS THAT THE WORKERS IN UNHEALTHY JOBS, MUCH AS THOSE WHO MAN THE TURBINES, WILL PERFORM THOSE TASKS ACCORDING TO THE PREVIOUS WORK SCHEDULE IN EFFECT AND TECHNICALLY WILL WORK THE NEWLY INCREMENTED HOURS AT OTHER LESS DEMANDING JOBS. IN REALITY, THE AGREEMENT SEEMS TO BE THAT THEY WILL NOT BE REQUIRED TO WORK THE ADDITIONAL HOURS AT ALL.

2. IT HAS BECOME EVIDENT THAT THE APPEARANCE OF RELATIVELY BETTER COORDINATION WITHIN THE GOVERNMENT IN DEALING WITH THIS LABOR CONFLICT THAN IN THE PAST, WHICH WE REPORTED IN REFTEL A, WAS ILLUSORY. LABOR MINISTER LIENDO HAS ASSERTED TO INTIMATES
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THAT PRESIDENT VIDELA TOLD HIM HE WAS ABOUT TO BE SACKED BECAUSE THE "HARDLINERS" IN THE MILITARY THOUGHT HE WAS NOT ACTING WITH SUFFICIENT FIRMNESS IN THE LABOR DISPUTE. SEVERAL ACTS OF SABOTAGE AGAINST SEGBA INSTALLATIONS IN CONNECTION WITH THE STRIKE UNDOUBTEDLY CONTRIBUTED TO THE GOVERNMENT'S TOUGH POSITION. USING THIS AS AN ARGUMENT, LIENDO MET QUIETLY WITH EX-LUZ Y FUERZA BUENOS AIRES LOCAL LEADER OSCAR SMITH AND

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CONVINCED HIM TO CALL OFF THE SLOWDOWN IN THE INTEREST OF NOT PRECIPITATING A TAKEOVER OF THE VIDELA GOVERNMENT BY THE "HARD-LINERS" AND OF PREVENTING THE UNLEASHING OF A NEW REIGN OF TERROR AGAINST THE UNIONS. THERE IS THE POSSIBILITY THAT THIS WAS SOLELY A BARGAINING TACTIC USED SUCCESSFULLY BY LIENDO TO WIN OVER THE UNION, BUT WE DO NOT DISCARD THE POSSIBILITY THAT LIENDO WAS CLOSE TO BEING DISMISSED. EARLIER THIS WEEK, ONE OF THE TWO SUBSECRETARIES OF LABOR TOLD US THAT SEGBA HAD PULLED A FAST ONE BY FAILING TO OBTAIN THE PRIOR APPROVAL OF THE LABOR MINISTER, AS REQUIRED BY LAW, FOR ITS ANNOUNCED DECISION TO DOCK THE WORKERS FOR TIME LOST DURING THE WORK STOPPAGE, AND THE MINISTER WAS FORCED TO SUPPORT THIS DECISION--DESPITE HIS PERSONAL DISAGREEMENT--IN ORDER TO GIVE THE APPEARANCE OF GOVERNMENT UNITY.

3. WHETHER THERE WILL BE FURTHER LABOR-MANAGEMENT DISCUSSION OF THE OTHER ISSUES AT STAKE AND, THEREFORE, WHETHER THE SUSPENSION OF THE STRIKE IS NOT MERELY A TEMPORARY REPRIEVE, IS ANOTHER QUESTION. HOWEVER, IN THE MEANTIME, THE SUSPENSION OF THE POWER WORKERS STRIKE HAS CAUSED THE SPECTRE OF A GENERALIZED STRIKE BY OTHER STATE EMPLOYEES, PARTICULARLY THE RAILROAD WORKERS, TO RECEDE AT LEAST TEMPORARILY INTO THE BACKGROUND.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Concepts: DISPUTE SETTLEMENT, LABOR STRIKES
Control Number: n/a
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Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
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From: BUENOS AIRES
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770245/aaaabobc.tel
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